

Message Text

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SUBJ: UNIVERSITY OF ANTIOQUIA RECTOR RESIGNS; MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION TO MEDIATE DISPUTE

REF: MEDELLIN 0291

1. UNIVERSITY OF ANTIOQUIA RECTOR LUIS FERNANDO DUQUE
SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION SEPT 24 TO THE ACTING GOVERNOR OF
ANTIOQUIA (GOV. ECHAVARRIA IS ILL) WHO ACCEPTED IT THE
FOLLOWING .

2. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION
HERNANDO DURAN DUSSAN OFFERED HIS MINISTRY AS MEDIATOR OF THE
DISPUTE BETWEEN THE UNIV AND PROFESSORS. THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL
OF THE UNIV, THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS, AND THE SMALLER
PARALLEL PROFESSORS ORGANIZATION ASDVA HAVE ALL EXPRESSED THEIR
ACCEPTANCE OF MEDIATION. MINISTER DURAN NAMED VICTOR CARDENAS
JARAMILLO AS THE MINISTRY'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE U OF A SUPERIOR
COUNCIL AND INDICATED THAT CARDENAS WILL ACT AS MEDIATOR.

3. COMMENT: PUBLICLY EVERYONE IS INDICATING AGREEMENT
TO THE MEDIATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE RECTOR'S RESIGNATION AS A
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CONSTRUCTIVE STEP. HOWEVER, SOURCES CLOSE TO THE UNIVERSITY

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERIOR COUNCIL STATE BLUNTLY THAT DUQUE'S RESIGNATION WAS FORCED BY MINISTER DURAN AND THAT BOTH DUQUE AND THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL HAD INITIALLY RESISTED MINISTRY MEDIATION AS A VIOLATION OF U OF A AUTONOMY. IT IS WIDELY ACCEPTED NOW THAT DUQUE'S RESIGNATION AND THE MINISTRY MEDIATION CONSTITUTES AN IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR THE PROFESSORS.

4. THERE ARE SOME REPORTS THAT THE PROFESSORS ARE INSISTING ON DEROGATION OF THE CONTROVERSIAL TEACHING STATUTE AND REINSTATEMENT OF THE SANCTIONED PROFESSORS AS A PRECONDITION TO THEIR PARTICIPATION IN MEDIATION. IN ANY CASE IT SEEMS LIKELY THE PROFESSORS WILL ACHIEVE BOTH OBJECTIVES SHORTLY. WITH RESPECT TO DUQUE, AS FREQUENTLY HAPPENS IN THESE DISPUTES THE SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE U OF A ADMINISTRATION AND THE PROFESSORS BECAME FOCUSED ON THE PERSON OF THE RECTOR. THEREFORE, HIS REMOVAL PERSE SHOULD ASSIST MEDIATION; NEVERTHELESS THE RESIGNATION ALL THE SAME SERIOUSLY WEAKENS THE POSITION OF THE U OF A ADMINISTRATION ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AT STAKE IN THE DISPUTE OVER THE TEACHING STATUTE.

6. SPECULATION HAS NOW TURNED TO THE NAMING OF A NEW RECTOR. THE GOVERNOR MAY ANNOUNCE AN APPOINTMENT UNILATERALLY, ALTHOUGH THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL BELIEVES IT HAS THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO NAME A RECTOR. APART FROM THIS PROCEEDURAL QUESTION, THERE IS CONCERN THAT IN ORDER TO PLACATE PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS

THE GOVERNOR WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION MIGHT CHOOSE A LEFTIST AS RECTOR. THIS REMAINS, HOWEVER, ONLY SPECULATION. COOPER

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